Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal.

Average yield of agricultural crops in Kerala

783. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average yield of major agricultural crops in Kerala in the context of national average productivity;

(b) factors identified to be associated with low productivity and action plan finalised to recover the loss; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The average yield of major agricultural crops in Kerala *vis-a-vis* all India during 1998-99 is given in the table below:

Kg/Hectares

	Kerala	All India
Rice	1891	1928
Pulses	788	622
Groundnut	841	1210
Sugarcane	72571	72560
Coconut (Yield/hectares in nuts in numbers)	6188	7821
Cardamom	129	104
Black Pepper	279	277

(b) and (c) The productivity of the crops in a State is higher or lower than national average due to various factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farming practices, cropping system etc. The Government is implementing various crop specific schemes/ programmes to increase their production and productivity in the State such as:

- Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based

Cropping System (ICDP-Rice),

- Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS),
- Oilseeds Production Programme,
- National Pulses Development Project,
- Integrated programme for the Development of Spices, Besides, Coconut Development Board, set up under the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 has been making concerted efforts to increase production and productivity of coconut in the States.

Area under Foodgrains

784. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under foodgrains is stagnant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to improve the situation to avert implications on long term food security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The area under foodgrains has witnessed a modest decline at the rate of -0.18% per annum during the period 1989-90 to 1998-99. However, for ensuring the long term food security, the Government is implementing various crop specific development schemes and programmes for sustaining the increase in production and productivity. The Government also announces Minimum Support Prices to ensure remunerative prices to farmers, and creation of buffer stock for ensuring the food security.